

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1.-26. (Canceled).

27. (Withdrawn) An illumination system comprising:

a central control unit; and

at least one lamp operating device for operating one or more associated lamps, wherein

the lamp operating device can be operated in different operational modes, and

the central control unit and the lamp operating device are so configured that the selection and setting of an operational mode for the lamp operating device can be carried out from or via the central control unit.

28. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the operational mode of the lamp operating device makes possible a dimming of the associated lamps.

29. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the selection and setting of the operational mode for the lamp operating device is effected through a transmission of a corresponding control command from the central control unit.

30. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 29, further comprising a bus line system via which the central control unit is connected with the lamp operating device and which is provided for the transmission of control commands.

31. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the lamp operating device includes a memory for storing information relating to operational modes available for operation of the lamp.

32. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the lamp operating device operates the lamp associated therewith in a base function when no operational mode has been selected.

33. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 32, wherein within a scope of the base function, the lamp operating device switches on and switches off the lamp associated therewith.

34. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, is alterable by means of the central control unit.

35. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 34, wherein the central control unit increases the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum-brightness

level of the lamp, in response to an increasing operating time.

36. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 35, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type.

37. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 36, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

38. (Currently Amended) A lamp operating device for operating an associated arranged to operate a lamp, the lamp operating device being operable in different one of a plurality of available operational modes selectable by a central control unit, wherein a selection and setting of an operational mode for the lamp operating device can be determined externally the lamp operating device also arranged to interpret commands provided by a local control unit, based on the available operational mode selected by the central control unit, to control the lamp.

39. (Withdrawn) A lamp operating device for operating an associated lamp, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, can be externally set.

40. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a lamp by means of a lamp operating device, wherein the method comprises:

the lamp operating device is operable in different operational modes, and the selection and setting of an operational mode for the lamp operating device is effected externally

selecting, by a central control unit, one of a plurality of available operational modes for the lamp operating device; and

at the lamp operating device, interpreting at least one command provided by a local control unit, depending on the operating mode selected in the selecting, to control the lamp based on the operational mode selected in the selecting.

41. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 40, wherein the selection and setting of the available operational mode for the lamp operating device is effected by means of a transmission of includes transmitting an external control command from the central control unit.

42. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 40, wherein at least one of the selectable available operational modes of the lamp operating device makes possible a dimming of an associated the lamp or lamps.

43. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 41, wherein operating the lamp operating device operates [[a]] the lamp associated therewith in accordance

with a base function when no operational mode has been selected.

44. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 43, wherein operating the lamp operating device further includes switches switching on and switches switching off the associated lamp within a scope of the base function.

45. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 40, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level which can be set by means of the lamp operating device can be altered.

46. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 45, wherein a switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level of the lamp (LA), is increased in response to an increasing operational time.

47. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 46, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type.

48. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a lamp by means of a lamp

operating device, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, is alterable.

50. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 49, wherein the switched-on brightness level or the maximum brightness level of the lamp is increased in response to an increasing operational time.

51. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 50, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type and/or a luminaire type.

52. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 51, wherein by means of an increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp and/or a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

53. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 36, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

54. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 35, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a luminaire type.

55. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 54, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

56. (Withdrawn) An illumination system according to claim 54, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

57. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

58. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 46, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a luminaire type.

59. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

60. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 58, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.